

**Brookline Commission for Women
Community Support Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes: DRAFT
Monday, February 8, 2021 – 12:00 PM**

Present: Hadassah Margolis, Felina Silver Robinson, Homa Sarabi, Aileen Lee

A quorum being present, Commissioner Margolis called the meeting to order at 12:06pm. First, Commissioners voted to approve the minutes of January meeting and reviewed the calendar for next months' meetings through June 2021.

Commissioner Silver Robinson reported that Women Thriving has not been able to discuss about the virtual meetups, so that is on hold for now.

The subcommittee then brainstormed questions to have in case there are lulls in the discussion for our virtual meetup on 2/10. Also, Commissioner Lee asked if we should have specific topics for future virtual meetups so that maybe will be intriguing for younger participants to join.

Commissioner Sarabi said that she likes having an open forum and also it might be too ambiguous and scary to join if there isn't a specific focus. Commissioner Margolis discussed her experience with leading group spaces on Zoom and how to encourage both young and older audience and do it in a way that would be accessible and interesting to all ages. Commissioner Lee agreed that having a broad topic would help to cast a wider net and take away the ambiguity but keeping it a casual gathering. Then, in the beginning of the meetup, we can say that this is a suggested topic and it can be open to whatever comes up for you. Commissioner Margolis described a group where each member checks in and then the longer discussion is opened up to a certain focus.

For April's virtual event, we can ask February's participants what general topics they may be interested. We then brainstormed possible other topics, including April being "National Volunteer Month," which can include ways people give back, how people can find volunteering opportunities (including Inspo:Expo), how volunteering are often done by women. Commissioners will brainstorm wording and come back at next March meeting with a theme, wording, and flyer ideas.

For February 10, Commissioners will join at 7:20pm to begin at 7:30pm. Commissioner Margolis will lead the discussion, including brief guidelines, open discussion, and then ideas for topics for next sessions. Commissioner Lee will take notes.

We then moved on to other ideas and projects for this subcommittee to focus on. Commissioners are still interested in a community-crowdsourced resource (list of art/lit/film/blogs/podcasts on women's issues) and women-led book club, but not sure about next steps due to lack of time/availability.

Commissioner Sarabi brought up the idea of support for women and housing in Brookline, whether it be resources, logistics, or spaces to come and talk. Also interested in thinking about collaborating with Mothers Out Front in terms of climate justice and gender justice. Commissioner Sarabi will bring more information on both for next subcommittee meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm, as commissioners had to move on to other meetings.